

## Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 H-01 ACDA-10

IO-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 SAM-01 /047 W

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O R 260411Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

S E C R E T TOKYO 11866

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SEOUL PLEASE PASS SECDEF PARTY FOR DASD/ISA ABRAMOWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA KS KN

SUBJ: SOUTH KOREAN CONTINGENCIES AND U.S. BASES IN JAPAN

REF: A. TOKYO 11354 DTG 220800Z AUG 75

B. TOKYO 11603 DTG 200550Z AUG 75

1. DURING MID-AUGUST TOKYO CONSULTATIONS OF FSO THOMAS J. BARNES EN ROUTE TO NEW POSITION ON NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, JDA VICE MINISTER KUBO ASKED BARNES ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE U.S. TO A NORTH KOREAN THRUST AT THE FIVE SOUTH KOREAN CONTROLLED ISLANDS WHICH LIE CLOSE TO NORTH KOREA'S WEST COAST (PAENGYONG-DO). KUBO WANTED TO KNOW IF SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF THE EASE FOR NORTH KOREA IN MAKING SUCH A THRUST AND THE CORRESPONDING DIFFICULTY FOR THE SOUTH KOREANS IN COUNTERING IT. BARNES RESPONDED THAT SINCE HE HAD NOT YET ASSUMED USC POSITION, HE NOT QUALIFIED TO COMMENT.

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2. COMMENT: KUBO'S QUESTION CAME AFTER HIS STATEMENT TO CODEL WOLFF DEFENSE SUBGROUP THAT GOJ WOULD PROBABLY RESPOND POSITIVELY DURING PRIOR CONSULTATIONS TO U.S. REQUEST TO USE BASES IN JAPAN FOR DIRECT COMBAT DEPLOYMENT PROVIDED THE NORTH KOREAN ACTION CONSTITUTED LARGE-SCALE, CLEAR-CUT CASE OF AGGRESSION (REF A PARA 20). IN OUR VIEW KUBO DOES NOT NOW CONSIDER NORTH KOREAN ATTACK ON ISLANDS AS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR-CUT TO PRODUCE RAPID POSITIVE RESPONSE BY GOJ, BUT WOULD WELCOME CLARIFICATION OF U.S. THINKING ON SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE IT HIGHLY LIKELY THIS QUESTION WILL ARISE AGAIN DURING SCHLESINGER-SAKATA TALKS IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF INFORMAL AGENDA ITEM 4.B OF REF B.  
HODGSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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